

Soviet foreign minister in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin flew to Damascus Friday after announcing with his U.S. counterpart James Baker that a Middle East peace conference between Israel and the Arabs would take place in Madrid on Oct. 30. Mr. Pankin praised Syria's support for the peace conference and said Moscow would work hard to make it a success. "Syria had shown wisdom, flexibility and long vision in helping solve problems preventing the holding of the conference," Mr. Pankin said. "I decided with Mr. Baker during talks (in Israel) earlier today to issue invitations to the conference in Madrid on Oct. 30," Mr. Pankin said. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, who welcomed Mr. Pankin at Damascus airport, said Madrid was a venue suggested by Syria as venue for the peace talks. Mr. Sharaa assured Israel of still not saying a definite "yes" to peace efforts. "Arabs have done everything possible to facilitate the holding of the conference but Israel until this moment is still not making a clear 'yes' to the peace efforts," Mr. Sharaa said. The Syrian foreign minister said Damascus believed the substance of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 meant that Israel should withdraw from the occupied Arab territories to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

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Spain formally accepts peace conference

MADRID (R) — Spain Friday formally accepted a plan brokered by the United States and the Soviet Union to hold Middle East peace talks in Madrid from Oct. 30. "The Spanish government will do everything in its power to make this conference, which will take place in Madrid, a real instrument of peace between peoples to which it feels linked by so many historical, cultural and friendship ties," an official statement said. The conference venue was not yet known. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will visit Madrid Saturday, a U.S. official said. The official said Mr. Baker, en route to Washington from the Middle East, would meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to discuss arrangements for the conference opening. He would spend a few hours in the Spanish capital. The choice of Madrid as the conference venue came as a complete surprise. News media, quoting diplomats and other sources, had reported for several days that the conference would be held in the Swiss city of Lausanne. U.S. officials said Lausanne had never been considered.

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Peace conference to begin in Madrid Oct. 30

Bush and Gorbachev issue invitations and plan to attend opening of parley

Israel agrees to participate after lengthy talks with Baker and Soviet restoration of diplomatic relations after 24 years

Baker and Pankin make joint announcement of peace talks

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES and the Soviet Union announced on Friday that they would invite Israel and the Arabs to a Middle East peace conference beginning Oct. 30 in Madrid, Spain.

"The road to peace will not be simple," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in a joint news conference with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin in occupied Jerusalem. "Old suspicions will not disappear overnight."

In Washington and Moscow, presidential spokesmen announced that George Bush of the U.S. and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union would be attending the talks.

The president plans to be there to open this historic occasion," White House spokesman Marin Fitzwater said Friday.

Mr. Bush, in a statement released by the White House, said he was "extremely pleased" that invitations to the conference were being issued.

"I myself plan to be there to help open this historic gathering, one with the potential to bring true peace and security to the peoples of the area," the president said.

As the invitation makes clear, the objective of the effort is nothing less than a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict, to be achieved through a two-track approach of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states and Israel and the Palestinians based upon U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Bush said.

"Mikhail Gorbachev will take part in the Middle East peace conference in Madrid," said a Soviet spokesman in Moscow.

Gorbachev spokesman said earlier in the week that it would be logical for the two presidents to open the conference.

The Madrid talks are planned to bring together Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and representatives of the Palestinians.

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Shamir indicates his cabinet's approval for Israeli attendance

Earlier Mr. Shamir and Mr. Baker said problems remained to be settled. Only later did Mr. Shamir make a clear statement that Israel would attend the conference.

"Israel will take part in the peace conference when and if it takes place," Mr. Shamir said on Israel Radio.

He said he would recommend to his cabinet that it agree to enter the peace conference "because I don't see a better alternative."

"Without negotiations we can never reach peace. This is the first time we have been given an opportunity to conduct negotiations as we wished... face-to-face, without preconditions, with our Arab neighbours," he said.

Mr. Shamir's remarks, to Israeli political correspondents, indicated that he saw cabinet approval as assured. He said he would decide by Saturday night whether to put it to the cabinet at its next scheduled session Sunday, or later.

Mr. Shamir made his remarks shortly after Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin signed accords renewing full diplomatic ties with Israel, the condition the Jewish state set for Moscow to co-sponsor the peace conference with Washington.

Mr. Shamir spoke after intensive talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who was on his eighth trip to the Middle East to set up the conference.

Baker did not show the list to Shamir.

The Palestinians obligated Mr. Baker to keep the list secret so that Israel could not veto the names on it.

"There are many, many areas of agreement, there are some areas where in order to achieve a (peace) process it was impossible for us to reach agreement," Mr. Baker told reporters.

Mr. Baker said his talks were over and that it was now up to Israel to decide whether it would join its Arab neighbours at the conference.

"The discussions have been friendly and we have made much progress on most of the problems we have discussed," Mr. Shamir said.

"There are some questions that remained open. I will bring our conclusions, the conclusions of the discussions, before our government on one of its next sessions and the government will take a decision about the further steps of Israel in this regard."

Mr. Baker added: "These do not represent fundamental differences in the relationship between the United States and Israel, a relationship that is important not only to Israel but important and very important to the United States of America."

On Friday morning Mr. Baker obtained from Palestinian leaders a list of the delegates they want to send to the talks, and an obstacle appeared to arise because Mr.

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the first time in history.

"What's more the Soviet Union has today restored full relations with Israel after a break of 24 years.

"But I think that our joint presence here today represents something more. Foreign Minister Pankin and I are pleased to announce that President Bush and President Gorbachev are today inviting Israel, Arab states, and Palestinians to attend a Middle East peace conference to be held beginning Oct. 30th in Madrid. That conference is to be followed by direct nego-

tiations designed to achieve real peace.

"We have witnessed new beginnings in other parts of the world. The negotiating process that we are seeking to launch with this invitation holds the hope of a new era in the Middle East. The hope of an era marked by acceptance and not by rejection, the hope of an era marked by dialogue and not by violence, the hope of an era marked by cooperation and not by conflict, and the hope of an era marked by hope itself and not

Soviet Union restores formal ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Soviet Union restored diplomatic relations with Israel Friday after a 24-year rupture.

The announcement came in a joint statement by Foreign Ministers Boris Pankin of the Soviet Union and David Levy of Israel.

Mr. Baker said the invitations were in the process of being delivered, in the name of Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev.

"This invitation offers the peoples in this region a pathway to ending an era of confrontation and it offers a basis for a new future," Mr. Baker said.

"The road to peace, and I think we both understand this exceedingly well, will not be simple... it will be extremely difficult with many problems, many hitches and probably many interruptions along the way. Old suspicions will not disappear quickly. The gaps are real and the gaps will not be easily overcome. So we have

Soviet Union would have to restore ties with the Jewish state as a condition to participating in peace talks. The Soviets have promised to renew ties as soon as the date is set for the conference.

Moscow broke the ties after the 1967 war.

Mr. Levy said the renewal of relations will allow Israel to conduct a dialogue with the Soviet Union and discuss Middle East issues "openly, directly and not through other parties."

The statement said the Soviet Union and Israel firmly believe that the reestablishment of diplomatic ties "fully serves the interests of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, the establishment of a lasting peace and stability in this region and further development of international cooperation."

At a news conference at his office, Mr. Levy linked the achievement to the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to convene Middle East peace talks.

He said Mr. Baker's efforts were "bearing fruit today... among them, our renewal of relations with the Soviet Union."

About an hour later, the United States and the Soviet Union announced that they are inviting Israel and the Arabs to peace talks in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 30.

Israel has long insisted the

(Continued on page 5)

Sharon: U.S. wants to force Israel back to 1967 borders

OXFORD, England (Agencies) — Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon Friday accused the United States of attempting to force Israel back into its 1967 borders as part of a Middle East peace initiative.

Mr. Sharon argued, "not a peace conference, but a war conference,"

His own policy of accelerated Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, he argued, was a sturz guarantee against war.

In a speech inaugurating the new building of the L'Chaim Society, a student group associated with the Hassidic Lubavitcher Movement, Mr. Sharon said the principal "danger" to the Western world lies in the "primitive, fanatic and murderous" government of Iran and the Arab World.

"The United States and the West are supporting these countries against Israel. If this is the faith of the 'new order,' I am beginning to wonder what was actually so bad in the old order. It is certainly neither a fair order nor a just order," Mr. Sharon said.

"I will recommend it, certainly, and not just me, also the prime minister. I have no doubt about it," Mr. Levy told reporters.

Mr. Baker said, "The names that were given to me this morning in the limited time we have had available to look at them... appear to my delegation to meet the parameters of the process."

Asked if the Palestinians are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and that they do not reside in occupied Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Baker was asked whether he was disappointed at Syria's

(Continued on page 5)

no illusions about the hard work that lies ahead.

"This invitation offers the peoples in this region a pathway to ending an era of confrontation and it offers a basis for a new future.

"The road to peace, and I think we both understand this exceedingly well, will not be simple. To the contrary, it will be extremely difficult with many problems, many hitches and probably many interruptions along the way. Old suspicions will not disappear quickly. The gaps are real and the gaps will not be easily overcome. So we have

James Baker has just informed you of the joint Soviet-American statement. Therefore I have no other papers to read out to you. I can only say that I fully share what has just been said by Secretary Baker. However, I'd like to add a few comments.

"The stage that we have now come to represents a very important turning point for the entire situation in the Middle East. We have come a long way and we have come

to this opportunity.

"As has just been mentioned by Secretary Baker,

we have restored full di-

Jordan welcomes conference, says results more important

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan welcomes the American-Soviet announcement that a Middle East peace conference will begin in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 30 and hopes that the meeting will lead to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said Friday.

While describing the choice of Madrid as the venue for the conference as a pleasant surprise and the Spanish capital as a "wonderful city," Mr. Sharif referred to reports of last-minute snags posed by Israel, including a cabinet consideration on the issue scheduled for Sunday.

"We don't know whether these problems have been overcome," he said. "We have to wait and see."

It was not immediately known whether Jordan had actually received the conference invitation, issued jointly by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The invitations were sent by the State Department in cables to U.S. embassies in each country. The embassies, in turn, were to deliver them to the foreign ministry of each invitee.

Information Minister Sharif spoke after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced in occupied Jerusalem that presidents Bush and Gorbachev were issuing invitations to the Arabs and Israel to attend the peace conference.

A senior U.S. official said the Palestinian invitation had been given to senior Palestinian negotiator Faisal Al Husseini who has met Mr. Baker on all his visits. It was delivered by

(Continued on page 5)

Mystery surrounds the final shape of Palestinian delegation

By Louis K. Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mystery surrounded the final composition of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East conference Friday as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials insisted that the organization had not abandoned demands for the representation of Palestinians in the diaspora and Arab Eastern Jerusalem.

Judging by various and sometimes contradictory accounts of the PLO Central Council (PCC) resolutions, the PLO was yesterday still seeking a formula to reconcile American and Israeli terms for Palestinian representation with PCC conditions for inclusion of representatives from outside and inside the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

According to PLO officials in Tunis, the PCC resolutions, which have not been published in details yet, authorized Palestinian participation at the peace conference but did not drop the representation of the Palestinians in the diaspora and of East Jerusalem.

The PLO officials' assertions appeared to contradict reports that a list of names, exclusively drawn from the Israeli-occupied territories, had been handed over to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Friday. The PLO officials contacted in Tunis refused to explain the contradiction but insisted there was no final list submitted to Mr. Baker.

They said that Mr. Baker received a blue print of the PCC resolutions, which reiterates the same principles outlined in the Palestine National Council (PNC) declaration issued last month in Algiers.

Officials contacted differed on their interpretation of the PCC resolutions. By Friday night there still appeared to be major differences in Tunis over the PCC deci-

sions. Some officials insisted that the resolutions stipulated an immediate halt to Israeli settlements and the representation of all Palestinians at the conference as two final conditions for Palestinian participation. Others said that it was a qualified acceptance.

Some even indicated that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has ignored the conditional acceptance and given the green light to Palestinian Faisal Husseini to convey the PLO's acceptance to Mr. Baker without consulting with the executive committee.

In the final analysis, however, despite the differences the PLO cannot backtrack on its decision to authorize of Palestinian participation, according to those PLO officials contacted by the Jordan Times.

The controversy over the issue had reached a point late Friday that Abd al-Rahim Mallouh, the representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was on the verge of resigning from the PLO Executive Committee, sources said.

Sources in Tunis said late Friday that the name of the Palestinian delegates will be published in Jerusalem's Al Fajr newspaper quoting a Palestinian spokesman. The sources did not reveal the names.

Agencies add — the main obstacle to the peace conference has been Israel's insistence on vetting the Palestinian delegation to exclude the

Algerians.

Palestinians gave Mr. Baker

names of some of their de-

legates.

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Text of Baker-Pankin announcement of Middle East peace conference in Madrid Oct. 30

THE FOLLOWING IS the text of the announcement by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on issuing invitations to a Middle East peace conference in Madrid October 30:

Mr. Baker began by apologizing for holding the news conference so close to the Jewish Sabbath:

"But today is an important day and I think that this is an important moment. An American secretary of state and a Soviet foreign minister are together in Jerusalem for

the first time in history.

"What's more the Soviet Union has today restored full relations with Israel after a break of 24 years.

"But I think that our joint presence here today represents something more. Foreign Minister Pankin and I are pleased to announce that President Bush and President Gorbachev are today inviting Israel, Arab states, and Palestinians to attend a Middle East peace conference to be held beginning Oct. 30th in Madrid. That conference is to be followed by direct nego-

tiations designed to achieve real peace.

"We have witnessed new beginnings in other parts of the world. The negotiating process that we are seeking to launch with this invitation holds the hope of a new era in the Middle East. The hope of an era marked by acceptance and not by rejection, the hope of an era marked by dialogue and not by violence, the hope of an era marked by cooperation and not by conflict, and the hope of an era marked by hope itself and not

Barzani takes autonomy deal to Kurds

SHILADIZA, Iraq (R) — Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani, casting aside his customary reserve, has taken to the road to drum up support for a peace and autonomy deal he has negotiated with the government.

Mr. Barzani, under pressure from veteran Kurdish nationalist Jalal Talabani, his chief rival for the hearts and minds of Iraq's Kurds, is touring north western Iraq preaching reconciliation.

"Since 1961 we have fought and sacrificed enough for autonomy 10 times over," he told 10,000 supporters in Shiladiza Thursday. "There is no point in fighting when we can win our rights through negotiations."

Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) leader Barzani, whose family has been at the forefront of the Kurdish nationalist struggle for two generations, brought his draft autonomy agreement back from Baghdad in mid-August.

It was the product of negotiations launched in April by Mr. Talabani shortly after the collapse of a post-Gulf war Kurdish rebellion.

But Mr. Talabani, who heads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), immediately attacked Mr. Barzani's draft agreement, saying it surrendered Kurdish land and freedoms.

Differences between the two men, key members of the Kurdistan Front umbrella alliance, have brought negotiations with Baghdad to a halt, leaving Kurdish balanced precariously between war and peace.

Shiladiza, target of Turkish planes hunting for separatist Kurds from Turkey last week, was Mr. Barzani's first stop on a tour that was expected to take in the KDP stronghold of Dohuk and Zakho.

About two dozen military and political officials from the Iraqi government, including the deputy governor of Dohuk province and

senior police and army officers, greeted Mr. Barzani in Shiladiza.

"Right now we are looking for autonomy," he told the crowd.

"No one can deny us as Kurds our right to self determination.

Just as European peoples have that right, so do we."

Mr. Barzani said Kurds had an opportunity to achieve peacefully their political agenda, which he defined as autonomy for Kurdistan and democracy for Iraq.

Mr. Talabani, for his part, is testing support for Kurdish aspirations in an extended tour of Western countries.

The rivalry between the two, largely undeclared, was cast a shadow over the negotiations.

The agreement does not include key Kurdish areas such as the oil centre of Kirkuk and the towns of Kanquin and Sinjar in the proposed autonomous region. It is also vague in its guarantee of Kurdish political rights.

Mr. Talabani sees these as fatal flaws. Mr. Barzani sees them as deficiencies to be worked out over time.

In a thinly-veiled dig at his rival, Mr. Barzani said:

"The support of the Kurdish people is more important to me than all the support that Kurdistan is getting from the outside world."

The United States air force F-111's stationed in Turkey to deter Iraqi harassment of Kurds, meanwhile, put on a spectacular 20-minute display of loud, low-level flying as Iraqi Kurds and Arabs alike waited for Mr. Barzani to arrive.

Rashed Hamid Ibrahim, chief of traffic police in Dohuk city, was one Iraqi official who stood for several hours waiting.

"I am happy to join in welcoming a leader who will sacrifice everything for autonomy and the Kurdish people," he said. "From reading the news and talking to the people, I feel that the autonomy negotiations have reached their final stages."

Israel has lost trust in U.S., ambassador says

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States wants Israel to withdraw from nearly all territory it occupied in the 1967 war, Israel's Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval said in an interview published Friday.

The Americans have said in the past they want Israel to return for peace with its Arab neighbours, but have never spelled out how much land Israel should give up.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said repeatedly Israel would not return any Arab land, arguing it was either part of the "Biblical land of Israel" or vital for "security."

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights in 1967. It "annexed" East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Mr. Shoval, who has met frequently with U.S. officials in the past few months to negotiate terms for a Middle East peace conference, said the Americans are determined to push far-reaching Israeli concessions.

"The United States wants us to go back to the 1967 borders with minor adjustments and refuses to recognise the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights," he said in an interview with the Maariv daily.

The interview was published as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was meeting Israeli and Palestinian leaders to win final agreement for a peace conference.

U.S. policy has always backed U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which urges withdrawal from the occupied territories in ex-

change for secure borders for every state in the region.

But Mr. Shoval said only the end of superpower competition and the new alliances shaped by the "Gulf war have enabled Washington to push for Israeli concessions."

As a result of the tougher approach, Israel "has lost something of its trust" in the United States, Mr. Shoval said.

"We don't have the feeling that we can rely on the United States concerning issues that in the past were seen as vital in our eyes," Mr. Shoval said.

He cited the recent bitter disputes between Israel and Washington over Jewish settlements in the occupied lands, over the Israeli request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption and other issues.

"All these are not signs of proper relations," Mr. Shoval said. "But at the same time, we shouldn't exaggerate and describe the United States as hostile."

Mr. Shoval said Israel has some ways of influencing the U.S. administration, mainly through public opinion in the United States and through Congress, which is traditionally friendly to make it.

Asked if American firms had sold equipment to Iraq, Mr. Kay said there was "no region of the world that didn't contribute" to the Iraqi nuclear programme.

He said the company names will be given to the countries where they are registered and then to the U.N. Security Council, which will decide whether to make them public.

Mr. Kay said the IAEA is also investigating the complex web of financing for Iraq's acquisitions.

A congressional source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said some European banks have urged the agency to keep such information secret so they can avoid embarrassment.

From all the material and documents unearthed so far, Mr. Kay asserted, Iraq's nuclear programme was clearly a threat to the entire region.

Officials estimate some 100,000

U.N. official: Iraq could resume nuclear programme

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

IT SHOULD BE a moment of jubilation, after 43 years of conflict and five wars, Israelis and Arabs are about to talk peace.

But throughout the Middle East, the mood is edgy and anxious, expectations are low, neither side trusts the other and both are digging into hardline positions.

The impression is that both Israel and Arab states are being dragged kicking and screaming to a peace conference more because they want to avoid offending the United States, the world's only superpower, than because of any real feeling of reconciliation.

One moment of straight talking on Wednesday by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharas at a news conference with Secretary of State James Baker after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad illustrated this point.

Yes, said Mr. Sharas in answer to a question, Syria is going to the peace conference, but no, he would not shake the hand of his Israeli counterpart, David Levy.

"This very hand that you would like me to shake is very guilty. It's a hand which occupies our lands, ignores the Palestinian national rights and for the last decades we have been suffering from this constant occupation," he said.

Such talk only adds to the suspicions of an already jittery Israeli government that fears it is being lured to a conference where all the other parties will gang up on it to force a withdrawal from occupied territories.

Israelis felt they had a chance at acceptance when

On eve of peace talks, Mideast is edgy, hostility is high

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has built his career on a refusal to cede "one clod of earth" of the territories occupied in the 1967 war, was said by the Israeli press to be gloomy as the conference approached.

Police Minister Ronni Milo, a confidant to Mr. Shamir, said Mr. Sharas' statement flashed a warning light for Israel.

"All these things raise at least serious fear over whether there is a real interest to make peace, and if there is no such intention, then naturally we must be all the more cautious in all the processes we engage in," he told Israel Radio.

Israel and the Arabs are entering the peace talks with conflicting aims. The Arabs want land, if possible all the land Israel has been occupying since 1967. In exchange, they are offering an end to the state of war they have maintained with Israel since 1948.

Mr. Shamir's government for its part wants to hold on to the land for religious and security reasons and dreams of a different kind of peace.

It wants cultural and sporting exchanges with the Arab World, and trade and tourist links. In short, after four decades of being rejected as a cancerous growth in the heart of the Arab World, Israelis want to feel accepted.

Between the two sides is the United States which hopes to reconcile the differences with a formula of "land for peace." These, said Mr. Baker earlier this week, were the magic words.

Israelis felt they had a chance at acceptance when

former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited occupied Jerusalem in 1977, was received by an ecstatic Israeli public, shook the hands of bitter enemies like Israeli warrior-turned-politician Moshe Dayan, addressed Israel's parliament and called for a new era of Arab-Israeli friendship.

The wave of support for peace efforts that welled up among ordinary Israelis in those two giddy days sustained them through the difficult negotiations that followed until a peace treaty was signed in 1979.

This time, there is no such feeling in Israel. "Assad is no Sadat," said a commentator in Israel's top-selling newspaper *Yedioth Ahronot* Thursday.

Israelis and Egyptians both feel disappointed with the peace they obtained in 1979, and this disappointment colours their suspicious attitude to the new peace moves.

Israelis feel they got a "cold peace," a peace without friendship. The Egyptians feel Israel exploited them to wage war on the Palestinians in Lebanon in 1982 and to crush the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories which erupted in December 1987.

As Mr. Baker arrived in Cairo earlier this week, Wagdi Abu Zeikri, a senior commentator in the newspaper *Al Akhbar*, wrote:

"During World War II, Stalin the communist, entered an alliance with Churchill the colonialist and Truman the capitalist, to confront the Nazi threat. We hope that the Arabs will enter a similar alliance against their Zionist enemy."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Commander of PLO forces held in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Government troops arrested the commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) forces in Lebanon on charges of being in the country illegally, a police source said Thursday. The source, speaking on condition he not be further identified, said Colonel Ali Afandi was arrested Tuesday evening aboard a boat, shortly before it was scheduled to leave the port of Jounieh in the Christian heartland of Kesrwan province north of Beirut. The army command and the PLO office in the southern refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh withheld comment on the report. Mr. Afandi, 43, headed 6,000 hardcore PLO guerrillas in Lebanon before they were squeezed by government troops into refugee camps in South Lebanon early in July. The police source said Mr. Afandi was arrested on charges of illegal residence in Lebanon and resisting government troops. Further details were not available.

Italian premier apologises to Iran

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has apologized to Tehran for an egg-throwing attack on the Iranian ambassador, his office said Thursday. On Sunday, three men pelted Ambassador Hamid Abouzelebi with eggs filled with red ink as he prepared to receive a prize at an economic forum in Rimini on the Adriatic coast. "I trust this incident will not affect the good relations which exist between our two countries," Mr. Andreotti wrote in a letter sent Wednesday to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Abouzelebi, whose face and hair were splattered in the attack, rejected an earlier apology from the head of protocol at the Italian presidency, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. Citing "the apparent atmosphere of insecurity" in Italy, Iranian consulates in Rome and Milan stopped issuing visas, IRNA said.

Thais say Turkish banker died of drugs

BANGKOK (R) — A Turkish banker died of a heroin overdose while attending the World Bank-International Monetary Fund annual conference in Bangkok, Thai police said Thursday. Major General Tassana Suwanjutha, director general of the police institute of forensic medicine, told reporters that a post mortem found a lethal dose of heroin in the banker's blood. Yavuz Yavuz, the 31-year-old general manager of Turkey's Denizbank, was found dead in his room at Bangkok's Ambassador Hotel Wednesday night. Turkish Ambassador to Thailand Erdine Karasapan said he doubted very much if Mr. Yavuz had died of an overdose. "He was taken ill on Monday night with a headache and spent one night in hospital when he was released," the diplomat said. "There was no indication of any drug taking." He said he was waiting to see the official post mortem report. Another Turkish delegate to the meeting was in hospital suffering from a blow to the brain, IMF officials said. Ali Kaplan, general manager of Tekstibank, had complained of a headache after he had gone on stage to sing at a function at a hotel on Tuesday night, the officials said. He was in intensive care.

3 killed, several wounded in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish guerrillas killed three people and wounded several others in separate clashes in southeastern Turkey Thursday, security officials said. In Bingol province about 50 members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) attacked a police station and a Gendarmerie post, killing one policeman and wounding several others before escaping. In the southeastern province of Mus, rebels attacked a police station and a police residence, killing one civilian and injuring others. The rebels shot dead a village guard near Diyarbakir and wounded four more. The PKK has killed 14 soldiers since Oct. 7, provoking Turkish retaliatory raids into northern Iraq. More than 3,000 people have died in the PKK's violent independence campaign in southeast Turkey since 1984.

Mubarak discusses Mideast with Waldheim

VIENNA (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim Thursday discussed the situation in the Middle East prior to the planned peace conference and the war in Yugoslavia, officials said. No details were revealed of the talks that were held only hours after Mr. Mubarak arrived here from Bonn for an official visit. At a dinner, Dr. Waldheim expressed Austria's support for the endeavour undertaken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker towards convening an international conference on the Middle East. Dr. Waldheim called on Israel "to desist from erecting further settlements in occupied areas and thus remove a serious obstacle to peace." He said Austria sincerely hopes that Israel will ultimately accept the principle of "land for peace," which forms the basis for a settlement of the Middle East problem in accordance with relevant U.N. resolutions.

Bush defends Gulf war news curbs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Thursday the American people were well-served by news coverage of the Gulf war. The coverage, which was heavily regulated by the U.S. Defense Department, was not perfect, the president acknowledged over a television hookup to the convention in Detroit of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association. But he added that "the American people felt that they got very strong, intrusive coverage of the war."

Kidnappers deny demanding guarantees

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese kidnappers holding two Americans and a Briton denied Friday demanding guarantees for their safety after their captives are freed. In a statement sent to an international news agency in Beirut with a photograph of American Terry Anderson, the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad (Holy War) said it would continue on its path of jihad. The statement made no mention of a hostage release. The photograph — apparently an old one — showed Mr. Anderson, the longest-held Western hostage, in profile with a neatly-trimmed moustache and hair.

Upper/lower price in \$ per kg

Apple (R)	250 / 300
Banana (M)	500 / 650
Orange (L)	550 / 700
Orange (M)	500 / 600
Orange (S)	500 / 600
Pear (L)	500 / 600
Pear (M)	500 / 600
Peach (L)	500 / 600
Peach (M)	500 / 600
Plum (L)	500 / 600
Plum (M)	500 / 600
Tomato (L)	500 / 600
Tomato (M)	500 / 600
Tomato (S)	500 / 600

Market prices

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	Upper/lower price in \$ per kg
Apple (R)	250 / 300
Banana (M)	500 / 650
Orange (L)	550 / 700
Orange (M)	500 / 600
Orange (S)	500 / 600
Pear (L)	500 / 600
Pear (M)	500 / 600</td



ELECTION RESULTS — The Jordanian Women's Federation elected its president and executive committee Friday, after over a year of internal strife between Marxist and secular women. The ladies elected Hafiz Abu Ghazaleh as their president. The other 8 members of the executive

committee which were elected all belonged to the Unity Block. The winners were Dr. Safa Qusei (above, right) Iman Shukrui, Aman Sharar, Janet Minati, Khatouf Khatouf, Suhaila Bahrawi, Aida Sabra and Fatima Obaidat.

Officials welcome Saudi decision to open territory to Jordanian trucks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Ministry of Transport's Research and Studies Department Mansour Shammoor Friday welcomed the Saudi Arabian authorities' decision to allow Jordanian trucks to enter Saudi territories, saying that it represents a new opportunity for the land transport sector in Jordan to thrive.

The ban on the entry of Jordanian trucks to Saudi Arabia took effect nearly 15 months ago, when the Gulf crisis was at its peak.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Shammoor voiced appreciation to the Saudi government for its decision, saying that the Jordanian land transport sector can now go back to its traditional markets in Saudi Arabia and the other countries of the

Gulf. He noted that the Saudi and Gulf markets are the ideal markets for Jordan's land transport sector, given Jordan's central geographic location and its economic relations with the Gulf countries.

He added that Jordan owns the largest refrigerated land transport fleet in the Middle East and was not meant only to serve Jordan, but also to the neighbouring Arab countries.

Mr. Shammoor said his ministry would do its utmost to remove any obstacles that might hinder the smooth operation of the land transport fleet.

Meanwhile, members of the Jordanian Truck Owners Association expressed deep appreciation to the Saudi government for its decision to allow Jordanian trucks to enter its

territories and said it would contribute positively to strengthening the land transport movement between Jordan and the neighbouring countries.

The association's president, Qasem Al Saab, said the Saudi decision will strengthen the trade movement with the Gulf countries, as well as Yemen, Syria and Lebanon. He added that the Saudi decision also contributes towards strengthening the Arab economic and commercial march.

Mr. Saab said that the number of Jordanian trucks operating between Jordan and the neighbouring Arab countries is 12,000. He added that the revenues collected from the land transport fleet account for 12 per cent of the national income.

Art exhibition by three artists use colour intensity to achieve effects

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three artists whose works total 120 pieces and are currently on display at the Abd El Hameed Shoman Foundation's gallery all have colour intensity in common in their art.

The sculptures, many with a theme of love, by Muhammad Hussein Abdulah and paintings by Khaled Khreis and Abdul Raouf Shamoun all follow abstract art techniques.

The sculpture compositions by Mr. Abdulah are mostly made up of two figures, each constructed with male, female and animal shapes. He uses plaster, clay or bronze and often uses water colours and acrylic to give each of the 37 works that he has on display more character.

In a clay sculpture showing a skull of a bull's head, Mr. Abdulah uses colour only to enhance the sharp, symmetrical horns. The horns are painted golden.

In another plaster sculpture, a man is in a stance which indicates that he had just leapt back from a hazard of some kind. The source of danger is invisible but its presence is intensified by a horse standing on its hind legs facing the man. The sculpture is entirely white.

Yet another eye-catching work by the same artist is a seated figure resembling the right side of a female body painted royal blue. Next to this is an identical, right side of another female painted deep green. The components of this composition are streamlined in contour and appear very realistic.

The paintings by Mr. Khreis have bright colours, which are mostly earth tones, as he uses many yellows and browns. In contrast with that, he also uses pastel shades. In one of his paintings, Mr. Khreis shows the arches of what seems like a tunnel.



Exhibit by Muhammad Hussein Abdulah currently on display at Abd El Hameed Shoman Foundation

Surprisingly, though, the inside of the tunnel is pink and white when it is expected to be black or grey.

A feature unique to Mr. Khreis in this exhibition is his use of mixed media in a special way. It is noticeable in at least eight of his 33 pieces on display that the background is an actual newspaper with the abstract compositions painted to cover most of the paper. Although the papers may distract one from the actual composition, Mr. Khreis has managed with the strength of his subjects to create an effective balance between the background and foreground that stimulates the onlookers' imaginations.

The 120 pieces displayed are on sale and range in price between JD 75 and JD 650. The exhibition will continue until Oct. 27.

Association of Arab Universities to hold conference in Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Association of Arab Universities (AAU) will hold its 24th session in Qatar on Oct. 26 according to the AAU's Secretary General Mohammad Faraj Al Dugheim.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Dugheim said all representatives of the 57 member universities will take part in that meeting in addition to representatives from Arab and international organisations.

He added that a conference on the economics of higher education in the Arab states and a book exhibition will be held on the sidelines of the 26th session.

Dr. Dugheim pointed out that the association's agenda is crowded and that it is supposed to discuss 44 items relating to the association's administrative, financial and budgetary aspects as well as its final accounts and the condition of the Arab World Atlas Corporation, set up the association 10 years ago. The agenda also includes a review of the federation's activities during the last six years and its future plans.

Talking about the association's activities, Dr. Dugheim said that it had held symposia, issued publications and magazines, and carried out new projects such as setting up an information unit at its headquarters with the aim of collecting statistical data on higher education in the Arab World. Dr. Dugheim added that the association's secretariat is currently preparing for the issuance of a statistical manual about Arab universities and a general directory of the names of teaching staff, their degrees and specializations to put at the disposal of researchers and specialists.

He pointed out that the secretariat is currently making contacts with a Paris-based international information network with the aim of obtaining information which will be of use to students attending Arab universities.

New intellectual society formed

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Board of the Executive Council of the Third World Economists Society, Yacoub Saleiman announced Wednesday the establishment of Dar Al Hikma, a new intellectual forum grouping academics, scholars, scientists and intellectuals.

Dr. Saleiman said the society chose Jordan as the venue for announcing the establishment of the forum because of the atmosphere of democracy in the Kingdom and voiced his hope that this experiment will be followed in other countries of the world.

The new forum, he said, is open to all intellectuals, scientists and scholars who are willing to achieve its objectives, represented in serving the cause of nations and of humanity.

"This forum is not a political group or party bloc; it is an intellectual workshop where important issues of concern to the oppressed peoples are discussed in accordance with scientific methodology and social commitment," he said.

Court says trial will go on despite withdrawal by defendants' attorneys

Prophet Mohammad's Army members arrange for alternate representation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The State Security Court Thursday announced it was going ahead with the trial of 18 members of a militant group self-styled as Prophet Mohammad's Army, undeterred by the defense attorney's allegations about the legality of the procedures.

Lawyer Hussein Mjalli, who represents 13 of the defendants held for allegedly committing terrorist activities and plotting to destabilise state security, demanded that all the detainees be released as the investigations and the court trial itself were illegal.

as a continuation of the legal procedures taken in the case.

At the outset of the session it was announced that the defendants had made arrangements to have attorneys replace the 15 lawyers who had withdrawn from the case during last Monday's session in protest against the alleged torture of the accused during their detention.

The 18 group members standing trial have been accused of committing bombings, arson and plotting to assassinate government officials and foreign diplomats.

The defendants had pleaded not guilty to the charges levelled against them, reversing their earlier statements taken under interrogations.

The 15 lawyers who pulled out from the case had alleged that the detainees had admitted to committing the alleged crimes while under torture during interrogations.

Another lawyer, Jawad Yunis, who has been defending a number of the accused, announced his withdrawal from the case after opposing the trial procedures. Mr. Yunis said that the accused were all held at a Military Re-

formatory Centre although none of the accused was military in character.

But the judge said that the allegations had no legal basis and were unrealistic. Judge Faouzi said the allegations were considered a violation of the court's law and a direct contest of the integrity of the Jordanian judiciary system.

He warned the lawyer to refrain from levelling such accusations at the court or face legal proceedings.

Later, the judge announced that the court's next session will be held on Monday.

Jordan, Poland sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Poland have signed a joint cooperation programme that paves the way for bilateral cooperation in cultural and scientific fields.

The two sides will open the way for the exchange of visits by scientists, researchers and publications and will encourage cooperation among educational institutions and universities in the two countries. They will also offer each other scholarships for students specializing in a number of fields.

The programme provides for Jordan and Poland to promote exchange of folkloric troupe visits and of journalists and direct cooperation between radio and television in the two countries.

The two countries will encourage commencement of tourism and visits by people of either country and will hold contacts leading to cooperation in health matters through a joint agreement covering matters related to preventive medicine and medical sciences.

The programme was signed at the Ministry of Planning

Council considering establishing federation that will include all farmers unions in country



Sabhi Al Qasem

regions by utilising underground water resources, he said. The minister said that together with the areas in the Jordan Valley, which form the backbone of agriculture in the country, Jordan now has increased its lands covered with trees by 30 per cent in 10 years.

The minister called for a drastic change in Jordan's concept of agricultural strategy and said that the country can and must raise the efficiency of production over the coming five years through further investments in soil and water resources.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) marked this year's World Food Day by a slogan noting that saving trees will help feed the hungry.

It noted that many farmers have been destroying trees. At least 42 million acres of land are lost each year, most of it to farmers clearing land to grow crops, the FAO statement said.

The FAO estimated that one in every five people in the world, most of them children suffer from hunger, and that 15 to 20 million people die every year from its effects and diseases affiliated to malnutrition.



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CORRECTION

In its Thursday's edition, the Jordan Times erroneously reported that China's ambassador to Jordan, Hahn Choon Lee, presented his credentials to His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Hahn Choon Lee is ambassador of the Republic of Korea. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Art exhibition by Abd El Hameed Shoman, Khalid Jiree and Mohamed Hamed Alshabani at Abd El Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)

★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Ismail Khayyat, Mohammed Abdalla, Khaled Mohamed, Ali Mansoori, Khalid Wadi and Hamid Ali at Bohdhan Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gerasim Street, from Salwany).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohamed Al Jaloos at the French Cultural Centre.

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Destination Madrid ...and real peace

REASONABLENESS, common sense and patient diplomacy have prevailed: There is going to be an international peace conference on the Middle East and it is going to be held in Madrid on Oct. 30.

Even though the road is finally open for a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, what remains to be done is stupendous in task and monumental in scope. The convening of the conference is but the first step in a thousand mile journey that we are just beginning to embark on.

This is indeed an historic moment in the life of this region and the world as a whole. To attempt to put it into proper perspective in any number of words, however, is an invitation to history to smile at us. History will need from those who attempt to write it to wait for reality to be borne before it can pass judgement on what this moment means to all of us.

Meanwhile, observations, no less baroque than history itself, can be made.

In listing them, theoretical patterns and logical grooves are better left out, since the occasion making history now warrants positive input and hopeful feedback. A precarious enterprise as the one we are attempting here requires reaching only those conclusions which are neither controversial nor transient in nature. On such basis we proceed.

□ The core of the Arab-Israeli conflict has always been the Palestinian problem. Until the Israelis and the Palestinians sat together to negotiate a solution to their problem, nothing was ever going to be solved. The peace conference will provide the right umbrella for those talks and will thus serve as a rare opportunity to bring about not only an historic reconciliation between the two peoples but also between Israelis and Arabs, Muslims and Jews.

□ The land-for-peace formula, which has long been touted as the key to Arab-Israeli peace, will be put to the ultimate test. The impending talks will be substantive and promising when they centre on finding a mechanism for implementing the formula, and more self-delusion if they will not.

□ The conference will be more like a desert mirage without the active participation and involvement of the international community led by the United States. Washington is about the only power in the world that has the key to unlocking Israel's intransigence on the question of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. In return for American pressure on Israel to pull its troops out, the Arab side should be willing and able to convince all, especially the U.S. and Israel, that real and genuine peace is the Arab World's ultimate goal.

□ While peace, stability and security in this region are in themselves a natural choice for the peoples of the Middle East, as indeed elsewhere, everybody should know that the triangle cannot be drawn by ink and on paper alone. There will have to be justice for all, economic support and development programmes for those who need them, in order to ensure that any peaceful settlement will be enduring and comprehensive. Extremism, violence and hatred mostly have their roots in injustice done unto peoples and in economic deprivation as is clearly the case in this part of the world. The peace conference will be largely academic unless the conflict's human dimensions and impact on the lives of the region's peoples are placed on top of the agenda at every stage.

Reasonableness, common sense and the desire for peace have won, and the beginning of a new era should start at Madrid in 11 days' time. It should be a one-way street towards peace from there.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

To escape from the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242, Israel is seeking to link that recognition to the so-called secure borders issue, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. There is no doubt that in their talks with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the Israelis have been stressing this point because, and according to a number of Israeli officials, the U.S. administration has concluded an understand dealing with the Arabs to secure Israel's withdrawal to the pre-1967 border lines, the paper said. Israel does not wish to abandon the occupied Arab territories, claiming that they form secure boundaries, providing protection to the Jewish state though it realises that 1973 had shattered the myth of secure borders, the paper pointed out. It said that throughout its wars with the Arabs, and during the 25 years of occupation of Arab territory, Israel has not been able to ensure for itself security against attacks. In light of the previous experiences and the events over the past three decades, one can only say that the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which ensures the rights of all parties to the conflict can alone provide security for the Jewish state, the paper said. It said that the advanced weapons and the modern technology have destroyed the myth of secure borders for any country in the world. Should the Israelis accept the idea of implementing Resolution 242, said the paper, they would be choosing the right path towards security and lasting peace with their Arab neighbours.

DWELLING on the same theme Sawt Al Shabab daily said that Israeli leaders are appalled by the idea that the U.S. administration is serious about the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions in order to bring about peace to the Middle East. For this reason, the paper said, the ongoing wrangling within the Israeli government is unprecedented, even since the Israeli troops occupied the Arab lands in the 1967 war. The paper said that the Shamir government feels disappointed and betrayed by the U.S. administration in light of the letters of assurances Washington has passed on to the Arabs to encourage them to advance to the peace conference. The Shamir government is also disturbed by the continued pressure it is receiving from the European Community countries to reach peace with the Arabs and recognise the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, the paper added.

Bush-Shamir showdown makes American Jews face 'ignored realities'

By Arthur Hertzberg

FOR the first time, an administration in Washington has linked further American generosity toward Israel to Israel's willingness to stop further settlements on the West Bank. The government in Israel and officials of American Jewish organisations have reacted by denouncing President George Bush for using a humanitarian cause, the need to finance the settlement of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, as a weapon in his battle against Yitzhak Shamir's expansionist policies. But these denunciations fail to conceal the real issue, which is whether American-backed aid is to finance the absorption of the West Bank into Israel, thus making an eventual exchange of territory for peace impossible. Both the Israeli government and the leaders of American Jewish organisations know that, whatever a peace conference soon takes place or not, the long-predicted fight over the future of the territories that Israel acquired in the war of June 1967 has finally begun.

For months signals from Washington have made it clear that the Bush administration has lost patience with the policies of the Shamir government. Israel's ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval, a political appointee who was formerly a Likud member of the Knesset, said bluntly in June, in an interview on Israeli radio, that the government would have to choose between more West Bank settlements and American aid. Several cabinet ministers bitterly denounced him, although he was simply reporting on the Bush administration's policies, and his warning was only one of several signs in recent months of growing disaffection in Washington. Why did the administration harden its position, and why did the Israelis and the American Jewish organisations disregard the signals and head into confrontation?

The administration, for its part, came to the conclusion that the present government, the most right wing in Israel's history, intends to hold on to the West Bank and Gaza, and the Golan Heights, at any cost. During the last fifteen years some U.S. officials were drawn to theories that "only the Likud can make peace," that only the right wing could lead Israel to territorial compromise. These have turned out to be false, as did the notion that supposedly moderate right-wingers — Yitzhak Shamir is sometimes cast in this role — would strike a deal if they did not have to depend for a majority in the Knesset on the extremists — such as Givat Cohen and Rochav Zeevi — who oppose the slightest concession to the Palestinians. The Labour Party has said it would support Mr. Shamir against any vote of no confidence if he were to move toward a

policy of "territories for peace." Mr. Shamir has ignored this offer. In 1979, when he was speaker of the Knesset, he voted against the Camp David agreement because he thought its provisions for autonomy for Palestinians on the West Bank would lead inexorably to the creation of a Palestinian state. He has made clear his belief that Jewish failure to settle the West Bank will lead to the same result.

Mr. Shamir was warned recently in private by several leaders of American Jewish organisations and by some friendly congressmen that defying Mr. Bush's appeal for a delay in considering loan guarantees would risk a confrontation with the U.S. Instead he persisted in encouraging his supporters in the U.S. to make an issue of the guarantees now, and pressed his allies in Congress to introduce legislation to stop any delay. Yosef Harif, the journalist whom Mr. Shamir uses to leak some of his views, wrote in Ma'ariv on Sept. 13 that Mr. Shamir would not be upset if the confrontation stopped the peace conference from taking place at all. The leak had at least two implications: Mr. Shamir was trying to warn the Americans that the loan guarantees were part of his price for attending the conference, and he made it clear in Israel that he had not modified his intransigence over the territories, the idea of "territories for peace," which Mr. Shamir has always rejected, was for many years the policy backed by the Israeli government and by most moderate Jewish leaders in the U.S. In demanding that the American Jewish establishment not only accept Mr. Shamir's position but directly challenge the U.S. government over it, the right-wing Israeli leaders are depending on longstanding feelings of inferiority and deference on the part of diaspora Jews towards the Holy Land that are little acknowledged but are very deep nonetheless.

The sense that diaspora Jews are in some sense lesser Jews, than those living in Zion is explicit in prayer books and in the whole structure of traditional Jewish law. Those who dwell in Zion are, by definition, the more godly. The secular Israelis of today have translated this notion into the view that the diaspora owe deference to the Israelis because they and their children have fought the wars of Israel, while those in the diaspora have merely provided money and political support. Very soon after the state of Israel was created, its first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, insisted that true Zionists were those who lived in Israel or were planning to do so, and that all other Jews were a lesser breed, "friends of Israel who could earn Jerusalem's approval" by the intensity of their support. Throughout the centuries, those who provided the money for the

Jews in the Holy Land were seldom given an accounting of how it was spent there. Such inquisitiveness was held to be an impertinence, for the authorities in the Holy Land knew best.

This attitude, in its contemporary, secular, version, dominates the financial and even the political relationship between Israel and Jews living elsewhere. The centuries-old archetypes that govern the relationship between Israel and the diaspora are even echoed in the rhetoric with which Israel defines its connection to the United States. Israel expects a "special relationship" because it is the sole and reliable representative of American-style democracy in the Middle East. If democracy is the secular religion of the West, then Israel is the unique representative of the faith in a highly sensitive region, and it is entitled to special deference. Any attempt to treat Israel as one of many other American concerns is bitterly resented. Among American Jewish leaders it has become a kind of folk wisdom that the diaspora should accommodate to the prevailing government in Israel, and try to persuade the U.S. to follow suit.

The Jewish establishment in America wants to remain in good standing with the rulers in Jerusalem, who, in the last fifteen years, have been the men and women of Israel's right wing.

If the Labour Party were in power today, most American Jewish leaders would be backing an exchange of territories for a peaceful settlement.

A tragic consequence of this relationship is that most Jews in the diaspora remain ignorant of the different currents of thought in Israel itself. Throughout the present crisis the American Jewish press has hardly mentioned the division of opinion within Israel; it is too busy mounting defences of Prime Minister Shamir and deplored President Bush's hard-heartedness toward Soviet Jews. But on Sept. 13, for example, Yedioth Ahronoth, the mass-circulation daily that is read by most Israelis, reported on its front page that 69 per cent of the respondents to a recent poll, including half of those who voted for the Likud, were willing to trade territories for peace. Israeli opinion has often shifted on this question; but here was current evidence that the Shamir government's policy on the territories represents only a minority of the country and, at most, half of its own party. These startling facts have not affected perceptions in the American Jewish community because the American Jewish press and organisations have not publicised them, and may not even be aware of them.

A large proportion of Israel's high military and intelligence officials, moreover, and most of its intellectuals have been strongly opposed for years to Mr. Shamir's annexationist policies; but who provided the money for the

their views, too, have been effectively obscured outside Israel, especially in the United States. Two years ago Mr. Shamir called a conference in Jerusalem on "solidarity with Israel," which was in reality a stage-managed affair intended to show that Jewish leaders throughout the world were loyal to the government's policies. During the conference, the Israeli press carried a report that the prime minister had received an assessment by Israel's combined intelligence services that holding on to the entire West Bank would, in fact, threaten Israel's security, and that Israel would be better off retaining only several vantage points that would enable its forces to deter or destroy any possible attack.

A few hours after this news broke in the Hebrew press, I happened to meet the British press baron Robert Maxwell in a television studio where we and others were to debate the meaning of "solidarity" with Israel. He insisted that there was no such report since, at the closing session of the solidarity meeting, the prime minister had denied its existence. I said that if he repeated this view on the air, I would simply read from the newspapers in front of me, which quoted from the text of the intelligence report. He was silent. But it was soon clear to me that most of the American delegates to the conference would go home either not knowing of the intelligence assessment, or if they did, thinking experts, on ideological grounds, were none of their business. They felt it was their task to put the best face no whatever the government was doing.

Recently Ha'aretz, Israel's most distinguished newspaper, has vehemently opposed Mr. Shamir's policy of confrontation with the United States. Its senior columnist and chairman of the editorial board, Dr. Walter Gross, who uses the pen name Poles, wrote in early September that, despite the peace treaty with Egypt, the basic error of all Israeli governments, since 1967 has been to hold on to the West Bank and Gaza. He wrote:

We must recognise that the world agreed to the creation of a Jewish state only on the condition of a partition of the land; he who holds fast to the slogan "not one foot shall be given back" is both strengthening our enemies and alienating friends.

Another editorial in Ha'aretz challenged the claim of Mr. Shamir and his coalition partners that the Americans had no right to stop Israel from using American money for measures which they believe are "contrary to the interests of the United States in the region." In Ha'aretz's view, Mr. Shamir would not have the support of a majority of Israelis if he persisted in his confrontation with the U.S. Ha'aretz warned that even if Mr. Shamir succeeds

in obtaining the loan guarantees he wants without making any change in his policies on the West Bank and Gaza, those who support him should "remember that a Shamir victory means the founding of a bi-national state in place of a Jewish state, Israel." That is, holding onto the territories means that Israel would have an Arab population of 40 per cent, and nearly two million Arabs could not be held in permanent subjection and denied political rights without destroying Israel's claims to be a democratic state.

The real extent and impact of Israel's settlement policies have also been hidden from diaspora opinion. Some of the most knowledgeable American officials who monitor the West Bank have, indeed, professed exaggerated admiration for the skill with which the Israelis have concealed the reality of the settlements, both from their own people and from the Americans. The central fact is that, using various administrative formulas to do so, the state of Israel has now asserted control over more than half of the land of the West Bank. Less than half of this land is being used directly for settlements. A substantial part is used by the military, but much of the rest has simply been set aside for future use, above all for new settlements. This means that the Arab population of the West Bank — estimated by the Israeli army to be approximately 1.3 million people — is now contained within less land than the Israeli government has allocated to itself for both its own purposes and for the 100,000 current Jewish settlers, with hundreds of thousands more to come if the plan of General Sharon, the minister of housing, are carried out. As for the proportionate distribution of the water supply, reliable statistics are hard to find, but virtually every Israeli newspaper has published feature articles describing lack of water, while Jewish settlements adjoining the land have full swimming pools.

The financial costs of the settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza are also concealed. In August, State Department Middle East experts wrote a "confidence" paper, which soon leaked, summarising the main facts about the West Bank and Gaza for members of Congress. The department's experts found that no more than \$8 million in Israel's annual budget were overtly assigned to building more housing on the West Bank. But, as the report suggested, the real annual cost of West Bank settlement is many times the published figure. The road-building programme in the West Bank is a case in point, Israel has the largest amount of traffic per kilometre of roads of any country in the world, as well as the highest accident rate per capita of population. Still, less

poverty.

Another economist warned the various trade unions against waging strikes at a time when Jordan is facing serious challenges on the external and domestic fronts.

Mohammad Saleh Jaber said that although the idea of strikes is acceptable in most advanced nations which believe in democracy, and although strikes are not banned in Jordan, one has first to examine the country's economic situation and understand that the state is in no position to offer salary increases under the present circumstances for obvious reasons, known to all people.

A writer in Sawt Al Sharq drew the readers' attention to the plight of the farmers of the Jordan Valley region and said they are faced with the problem of having to buy agricultural requirements at soaring prices. He also drew attention to the farmers' problems of marketing, having limited water for irrigation, and poor living conditions.

Dr. Fawzi Tueinchi, who is also a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said that the Jordan Valley is the backbone of the country's economy since it produces most of the crops that earn the Kingdom its foreign currency. He urged the government and the Jordanian society as a whole to offer assistance to the farmers so that they could continue to shoulder their responsibilities.

The Week in Print

Success of peace process depends on U.S.

THE peace process dominated the themes of the editorials and the columns written in the past week. The position of Arab countries, the ongoing events in the Arab World and Iraq as well as domestic issues were all discussed in the press.

Under the banner: "The Greatest Responsibility of the World's Only Superpower," a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that people in the Middle East are hopeful that the current U.S. efforts to establish peace based on justice and the implementation of U.N. resolutions will be crowned with success.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi said that American Secretary of State James Baker is expected to overcome all the difficulties standing in the way of convening the peace conference which the Arabs hope would restore Arab rights and justice.

Al Ra'i daily said that if the United States' plan fails, a severe blow will have been dealt to its credibility and the future of the region would be gloomy. The paper said that the United States must pursue efforts for peace despite the Israeli government's objections.

Al Dastour, for its part, said that the coming days will witness a turning point in the future of this region. The paper said that the announcement that the U.S. and Soviet presidents could attend the opening ceremony of the projected peace conference can only lead further support to the parties' efforts to reach peace.

The support for the King, the paper said, reflects the people's desire to live in peace and to see the Palestinians' rights restored.

A guest columnist in Sawt Al Shabab reviewed the King's en-

deavours to serve his country and said that the Jordan's participation in the coming conference would be another attempt on the King's part to serve the Palestinians and their just and sacred cause.

Peace conference to begin Oct. 30

(Continued from page 1)

an era marked by cooperation not by conflict and the hope of an era marked by hope itself and not despair," Mr. Baker said.

Face-to-face talks between Israel and the Arabs would begin four days after the conference opened, Mr. Baker said.

The invitations cover eight months of shuttle diplomacy by Mr. Baker, who was determined to exploit the shake-up in the Middle East caused by the Gulf war, and the decline of Soviet influence among the Arab states.

Mr. Baker said the conference would be followed by "direct negotiations designed to achieve real peace."

He said that on multilateral negotiations, which are to consider issues such as arms control and water use, "the parties wishing to participate in those negotiations should meet within two weeks after the opening of the conference" to begin organising for talks.

Syria has expressed reservations about the multilateral talks, saying it hesitates to participate in them until it is sure the peace negotiations will succeed.

Mr. Baker noted that earlier Friday, Mr. Pankin announced that the Soviet Union was restoring diplomatic ties with Israel after a 24-year break because of the 1967 war.

"I think our joint presence here today represents something more," Mr. Baker said, then announced that invitations would be issued to the conference.

Mr. Pankin, in turn, said "I fully share" in the call for the peace conference.

"The stage we have come to represents a very important turning point for the Middle East."

Shamir indicates cabinet approval

(Continued from page 1)

refusal to attend regional talks on issues like disarmament and water conservation.

"The Syrian position is absolutely negative and doesn't promise success," he said.

"But nevertheless we decided to go to these negotiations and if the negotiations with Syria don't succeed it will be clear to all who is to blame for the failure."

At a separate news conference Foreign Minister David Levy implied that the Palestinian list would present no problem, but said another issue remained to be

Sharon: U.S. wants to force Israel

(Continued from page 1)

no question of land for peace and insisted that Palestinians already had a state.

"Jordan is Palestine," he said.

"We will never agree to the establishment of a second Arab Palestinian state in addition to the one which already exists within Palestine east of the River Jordan."

Mr. Sharon spoke of the possibility of Iran and Arab governments developing nuclear weapons.

"Today we know as little about this subject just as little as governments and surveillance, and supervision authorities in the world knew until a few weeks ago about the Iraqi nuclear programme," he said.

"It would therefore be logical

Mystery surrounds final shape

(Continued from page 1)

before he met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday but Mr. Baker did not show it to the Israelis.

Mr. Baker said the restoration of ties with Israel signals a new, more balanced Soviet policy in the Middle East.

"In the past, the Soviet Union tended to sort of side with the Palestinians and the Arab states, while the United States sided with Israel, and this did not bring any tangible fruit," Mr. Pankin said.

"The new approach now is certainly not to have any pretences and support their positions no matter what they say and no matter how legitimate they may be," he said.

Mr. Pankin arrived in Israel on Thursday.

He met Thursday night with three Palestinian activists in a hotel in Arab East Jerusalem. The Palestinians told reporters after the two-hour meeting they had discussed the composition of a Palestinian delegation for the peace talks. Mr. Pankin said they talked about preparations for the conference.

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Olympic organisers defend venue selection process

SYDNEY (R) — Olympic organisers made it clear Friday they would resist growing pressure from international sports bodies wanting a greater say in the running of the games.

"The present system is not perfect but it does have a number of advantages," Francois Carrard, the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) director-general, told the annual congress of leading sports administrators here.

The IOC, whose 94 delegates choose the venues for the winter and summer Olympics, have come under criticism for the way they select the host city and in particular the lobbying process and the high cost.

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"We are aware that the present system and structures are certainly far from being perfect... but it's the least of all evils," said Switzerland's Carrard.

If the federations and national committees also voted "you would have to lobby hundreds, maybe thousands of people around the world," he said.

International rowing chief John Boniface criticised the IOC for not asking international federations to advise on the facilities in bidding cities.

"There should be a formal procedure whereby each candidate city must have a certificate from each international federation that their facilities are suitable," Mr. Boniface, the Australian secretary-general of the International Federation of Rowing Association (IFRA), told the 350 delegates.

The IOC, reacting to these concerns and the lavish spending by bidding cities, has drawn up rules for the venues competing for the right to host the 2000 games — Sydney, Manchester, Berlin, Peking, Brasilia, Milan.

and Istanbul.

Receptions and cocktail parties for IOC delegates have been banned, spending on gifts has been limited to \$200, exhibitions and demonstrations on the day before voting have been dropped and bid-book documents must be on regular A4 paper.

Cities can be disqualified for serious or repeated breaches of these regulations.

The decision on the venue for the 2000 games will be made by an IOC secret ballot in October 1993.

Meanwhile, an Australian aboriginal group lobbied the leading international sports officials Friday in a bid to have Sydney barred from hosting the Olympic Games in the year 2000.

A five-member delegation from the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) handed a letter critical of the treatment of aborigines in Australia to Un Yong Kim, president of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) which is holding its annual congress.

Mr. Kim told the Sydney-based group he would circulate the letter among the 75 sporting bodies belonging to the association.

The letter called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to exclude Australia from bidding for the games because of its "appalling" treatment of aborigines.

"The racial overtones that have discredited South Africa are repeated hundredfold here in Australia," the letter said.

Delegation head and aboriginal lawyer Paul Coe said the IOC had a duty to judge a country's suitability for the Olympics not just on its ability to host sporting events.

"In our view Australia is not a suitable host country because it consistently violates the rights of aboriginal people," Mr. Coe said.

Mr. Coe quoted a World Council of Churches report earlier this year which said the poor living conditions of some aborigines equated to "genocide," and said several Australian inquiries this year had concluded that racism against aborigines was institutionalised.

Sydney is one of six cities to

announce a bid to host the games.

John Coates, president of Australia's Olympic Committee, who also met the delegation, said he did not accept that there was a parallel with South Africa.

"It's nonsense to compare Australia with South Africa," Mr. Coates said.

Earlier the IOC appealed to world sports bodies to help South Africa's return to the international arena following its readmission to the Olympic Movement in July.

"We know that South Africa still has many, many problems... we hope that you will all help," Carrard told the GAISF General Assembly meeting.

Carrard's plea, on behalf of IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, reflected the difficulties which have confronted the republic in competing internationally since the IOC decision.

"There are still difficulties with reunification (of sporting bodies) on a non-racial basis. It's an extremely difficult task," Mr. Carrard told leaders of Olympic and non-Olympic sports bodies.

South Africa's Olympics chief, Sam Ramsamy, said here Wednesday that sports bodies which had not unified might be barred from competing in Barcelona.

The republic's Olympics committee is to decide on Nov. 3 whether it will participate in Spain despite its readmission by the IOC after more than 20 years in the wilderness.

Mr. Ramsamy, here are the delegate for the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA), said a number of sports bodies were not integrated and re-entry to international sport would be selective.

The heads of two rival South African athletics groupings said Wednesday they were confident of unifying their organisations and establishing a non-racial code in time to send a team to Barcelona.

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Berger takes provisional pole in Suzuka

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Austrian Gerhard Berger upstaged championship rivals Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell Friday to claim provisional pole position for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

Berger, in a McLaren, clocked the fastest time of one minute and 36.458 seconds on the 5.859-kilometre Suzuka circuit to narrowly outpace his team-mate Senna.

Senna recorded a time of 1:36.490 to share the front row of the overnight grid. Mansell was third fastest in 1:36.529 in his Williams.

Frenchman Alain Prost was fourth fastest in a Ferrari with a time of 1:37.565, ahead of his team-mate and fellow Frenchman Jean Alesi. Italian Riccardo Patrese was sixth fastest in the second Williams.

Berger's performance showed the narrow superiority of the McLaren on the stretched figure-of-eight track which features the only cross-over of any circuit on the Formula One calendar.

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Braves earn first World Series by beating Pirates

PITTSBURGH (R) — John Smoltz pitched a complete game shutout and Brian Hunter drove in three runs as the Atlanta Braves won their first National League title with a 4-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Thursday.

The Braves will open the best-of-seven World Series against the American League champion Minnesota Twins at Minnesota on Saturday, completing an improbable pair of cinderella stories.

Both teams finished last in their divisions last year and Atlanta had the worst record in Major League Baseball, 65-97.

Smoltz's whitewash was a fitting climax to a series in which the Braves won three games by shutouts.

The 23-year-old right-hander, 2-0 in the National League Championship Series and the winning pitcher when the Braves clinched the Western Division title, extended the Pirates' scoreless streak at home to 27 innings.

They had not scored at Three Rivers Stadium since the eighth inning of their 5-1 opening game win.

Steve Avery, the 21-year-old left-hander who won two 1-0 games for the Braves, was named the series Most Valuable Player.

The National League crown was the first championship of any sort for the city of Atlanta, including 25 years with the football Falcons, 25 years with the basketball Hawks and eight years with the hockey Flames.

Pirates starter and loser John Smiley failed to get out of the first inning, getting only two outs while giving up three hits, a walk and three earned runs for his second defeat of the series.

The Braves franchise, which moved to Atlanta in 1966, had last been in a World Series in 1938, when it was in Milwaukee. The Braves played in the World Series twice while in Boston and twice while in Milwaukee.

But this year's young Braves had their fans excited as never before.

Even in the Pirates' home stadium, the imitation Indian chant of Braves fans could be heard throughout Game 7.

Smoltz allowed just six hits, walked one and struck out eight. He got Jose Lind to ground out to second for the final out of the game.

Lomme Smith led off the game with a walk and Terry Pendleton followed with a grounder just off the glove of a diving Lind at second base, sending Smith to third.

Ron Gant's sacrifice fly brought Smith home to make it 1-0 and after David Justice struck out, Hunter's homer just inside the left field foul pole brought Pendleton in for a 3-0 lead and drove Smiley out of the game. Bob Walk replaced him.

Hunter said of the home run: "It felt great. I was looking for a fast ball and I got it."

He added: "We thought maybe they would put their heads down a bit and we could put the pressure on them. They didn't put their heads down and they came back in the bottom of the first but we stopped them and we just kept going."

Pittsburgh failed to score in the home half of the inning after putting men on first and second with none out.

Orlando Merced and Jay Bell hit back-to-back singles but Pittsburgh's big three — Andy Van Slyke, Bobby Bonilla and Barry Bonds — again failed to deliver.

They were one for 36 in the series with men on base. They batted in only eight runs among them in this series and last year's, when the Pirates lost to the Cincinnati Reds.

The Braves added their final run in the fifth when Gant walked and stole second. After a walk to Justice, Hunter doubled sharply past third base for his third run batted in and the 4-0 final score.

Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said: "This proves once again that good pitching beats good hitting. You wish for shutouts and when you shut them out three times that says something."

Pittsburgh manager Jim Leyland was disappointed but said: "They are definitely the legitimate champions. They had to win two in our ballpark and they did it." The Braves had to win two in Pittsburgh after dropping two out of three at home.

"What a great story for baseball, from last place to the National League pennant," Leyland added.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Argueative and accidental aspects should be of no concern with today's EXCELLENT ASPECTS working on your behalf bringing you better health and the good will of those in power.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Now you have it in your power to

show you do need to convince a

doubting friend of your true loyalty

and devotion, then tonight get to

social pleasures.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Avoid that public task or taking

chances with a career interest until

later when you can see those offici-

als who can help with an assign-

ment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Whatever you have in mind that

does necessitate some better way

to get ahead is good but later in the

day is great for any new ideas you

may have.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan-

uary 20)

You have all kinds of

interest in showing you are the one

who does value the pleasure, ex-

tended you by those you like so

very friendly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19)

Now you find that it's up to

you to do the things about

them that require attention but

they are a bore and by doing so

tonight finds new harmony.

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20)

Look to what needs to be done

to get your usual ditties, so

arranged that you are able to gain

the goodwill and active assistance

of daily allies.

look over any writings and to make sure you say exactly what you mean today and tonight you will have new ideas.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Make sure you don't get con-

fused between practical and per-

sonal matters in the daytime but

tonight is an unusually good time

to get affairs in good order.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem-

ber 21)

You now have some very inter-

esting means by which to show

you do value what partners expect

of you by doing things you don't

like to please some allies.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to De-

cember 21)

Now you have so many projec-

cts to do that you are apt to

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 16/10/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 17/10/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7080	1.7103
Deutsche Mark	1.7057	1.7008
Swiss Franc	1.4905	1.4863
French Franc	5.8130	5.8077**
Japanese Yen	130.10	129.53
European Currency Unit	1.2010	1.2033**

* USD per STG

** European Opening at 9:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 17/10/91				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.18	5.31	5.31	5.43
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.25	10.18	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.25	9.25	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.05	8.25	8.18	8.06
French Franc	9.06	9.18	9.25	9.31
Japanese Yen	6.53	6.34	6.03	5.81
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.75	9.75	9.75

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Month Date: 17/10/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.95	7.05	Silver	4.11	0.092

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 17/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6880
Sterling Pound	1.7728	1.7787
Deutsche Mark	0.4028	0.4048
Swiss Franc	0.4612	0.4635
French Franc	0.1182	0.1188
Japanese Yen*	0.5292	0.5318
Dutch Guilder	0.3574	0.3592
Swedish Krona	0.1107	0.1113
Italian Lira*	0.0539	0.0542
Belgian Franc	0.01958	0.01968

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 17/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7900	1.8000
Lebanese Lira*	0.0774	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1860	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7700
UAE Dirham	0.1860	0.1870
Greek Drachma*	0.3617	0.3730
Cypriot Pound	1.4550	1.4650

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	16/10/91	Close	15/10/91	Close
All-Share	123.06	122.23	122.23	122.23
Banking Sector	104.21	102.88	102.88	102.88
Insurance Sector	125.56	125.07	125.07	125.07
Industry Sector	151.56	151.43	151.43	151.43
Services Sector	131.55	131.51	131.51	131.51

* December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7160/70	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1284/89	Deutschemarks	Dutch guilder
	1.6957/58	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	1.9105/15	French francs	Italian lire
	1.4835/37	Japanese yen	Norwegian crowns
	34.8792	Swedish crowns	Danish crowns
	5.7700/50	U.S. dollars	
	1266/1126		
	129.80/90		
	6.1750/1800		
	6.6350/6400		
	6.5310/660		
One ounce of gold	360.15/360.65		

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EC eyes water, tourism and private sector for 4th protocol with Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Water resources and management and tourism development as well as support for private sector enterprises are the key areas singled out for European community (EC) assistance to Jordan to be finalised early next month.

The assistance falls under an agreement signed in June this year and formally called the fourth protocol which provides for a total EC assistance of 126 million European Currency Units — ECUs — (\$13.6 million).

About one third of the amount — 44 million ECUs (\$4.8 million) — will be in outright grants, 80 million ECUs (\$8.8 million) in subsidised soft loans and two million ECUs (\$2.2 million) will be granted as risk capital for businesses.

The EC delegation and the planning ministry are working on allocations under the protocol and a meeting in Brussels of EC foreign ministers in the first week of November is expected to finalise the details.

According to Jean-Pierre Pierard, economic counsellor at the EC delegate's office in Amman, the key provisions of the final accord are expected to include a "master plan" for water resources and management in Jordan; finding new resources; improving the handling of available resources and ensuring optimum utilisation.

At a news conference, Mr. Pierard added that a conflict between aid to the former communist countries and traditional recipients of World Bank aid was not foreseen.

The communiqué asked donor nations, especially those not meeting a bank-set target, to increase their transfer of resources to developing countries. The bank recommends that donors provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for development aid.

Mr. Pierard said the committee hoped aid to the poorer nations would not be diverted in support of economic reforms in Jordan; finding new resources; improving the handling of available resources and ensuring optimum utilisation.

In view of the high volume of Jordanian imports from EC countries — according to 30 per cent of the Kingdom's annual procurements from abroad — there is a lot of scope for the private sector programme to be used up.

While no real problem is expected to snag the finalisation of the assistance agreement in Brus-

sels next month, diplomatic sources say that Britain might bring up the subject of a Jordanian ban on importation of cows from Britain.

The British argument is that a recent international meeting attended by Jordan found that a threat of the "crazy cow disease" in Britain is no longer valid, but the Kingdom has not repealed the ban on British cows.

"British is an influential member of the Community and can, if it chooses, to raise the issue of the ban at the Brussels meeting," said a diplomatic source.

No Jordanian official was immediately available for comment.

EC Commission assistance to Jordan since 1977 until Oct. 31, 1991 under the first, second and third protocols involved a total of 203 million ECUs (\$22.3 million) and covered most sectors, including education, agriculture, industry, science, infrastructure and energy and tourism as well as technical aid.

Eight-five million ECUs (\$9.5 million) were in the form of grants and soft loans and the rest in loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the commercial arm of the Community.

The European Commission while loans are granted by the EIB under commercial terms but the commission will subsidise the interest rates by two per cent.

Yugoslav army attacks continue in Croatia despite new ceasefire

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Fierce fighting raged throughout secessionist Croatia early Friday, and thousands of refugees fled the violence.

Another ceasefire was agreed upon Friday, following nine that have failed.

Artillery exchanges were reported around the besieged Croatian Danube River town of Vukovar and in central Croatia around Novska and Nova Gradiska.

Radio Belgrade claimed that Serbian-dominated federal forces and Serb rebels had repelled Croatian attacks in those areas and had advanced in several sectors.

The Croatian government said it had no complete and reliable casualty figures, but 15 to 20 people were believed to have been killed and dozens injured in action across the secessionist republic.

At the peace negotiations Friday in The Hague, a Dutch Foreign Ministry official said a truce was agreed — the 10th such effort to halt the fighting.

The Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Serbian and Croatian presidents both ordered an immediate halt to hostilities. However, previous ceasefires

have collapsed quickly.

In a smaller-scale accord, the army and Croatian officials agreed on a new attempt to send a medical relief convoy to Vukovar, Croatia's deputy defence minister said. An EC-led convoy failed to reach Vukovar's centre Monday and turned back.

A Croatian official, Stevan Adanic, also said the Croats and the army had agreed on a ceasefire in and around Vukovar, set to begin Friday afternoon and last through the weekend.

Vukovar has been cut off from the rest of Croatia for about a month. No outsider has been known to visit since then.

Non-Communist Croatia, which declared independence on June 25 along with neighbouring Slovenia, fears expansionism by Socialist Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics which dominates the central government and military.

More than 1,000 people have died in the ethnic fighting in Croatia, where ethnic Serbs increasingly backed by the federal army have seized more than one-third of the republic.

The latest onslaught apparently reflected the desire of the federal army and Serb rebels to weaken Croatian resolve.

In the latest violence:

— Vukovar and its suburbs were again under army fire early Friday, said defence officials, confirming a radio report.

— Vinkovci, another Croatian city, was being shelled and the local hospital, already badly damaged, was again hit, the officials said.

— Pakrac in central Croatia, scene of battles over the last few days, was rocketed by Yugoslav Air Force planes Friday morning, the Defence Ministry in Zagreb said. It gave no casualty figures.

An artillery attack was launched on Nova Gradiska, about 140 kilometres southwest of Zagreb, where Croatian radio said nine people were killed in fighting Thursday. There was no official confirmation.

Belgrade Radio said artillery fire was also reported during the night on the approaches to the medieval walled city of Dubrovnik, a tourist centre on Croatia's southern coast.

Villages north of Dubrovnik were under an infantry attack and shells fell close to the old town harbour Friday, Croatian Radio said, but defence officials did not provide details of damage or casualties.

Army units were reported in Belgrade to have advanced to Plitvicka, only eight kilometres from Dubrovnik, which is considered one of the best surviving examples of medieval architecture in Europe.

The city's walled medieval centre was not hit, said the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug.

On Thursday, up to 3,000 Croat men, women and children were evacuated from Illok, a Croatian town 32 kilometres downstream for Vukovar. Illok lies on an indefensible spit of land jutting deep into Serbia.

About 60 Croatian policemen and 400 members of the republic's paramilitary National Guard joined the exodus after surrendering hundreds of automatic rifles, machine guns and mortars to a company of federal military policemen.

More than 300,000 people on both sides have fled their homes since Croatia's secessionist war erupted nearly four months ago, Tanjug said Wednesday.

This shows people believe in Ten-Petrosyan's idea of a balanced policy that gives a real guarantee of security and transition to independence and economic autonomy," parliamentary spokesman Asbott Artyunyan said.

Syrian-born Ter-Petrosyan, a calm, scholarly man who speaks 10 languages, was jailed for six months in 1988-89 for propagating Armenian nationalism.

He became chairman of parliament last year after nationalists defeated Armenia's Communists in elections.

The 46-year-old leader has since carefully steered the secession campaign that culminated in a more than 90 per cent "yes" vote in a referendum last month and the declaration of immediate independence by parliament within two days.

A Christian land surrounded by Muslim neighbours — Turkey, Iran and Azerbaijan — Armenia has suffered a long history of invasion and occupation.

It last briefly enjoyed independence from 1918 until 1920, when it joined the Soviet Union.

No country has so far established diplomatic relations with Armenia.

But Mr. Bagratyan said: "Sooner or later it (the West) will recognise our political independence. A people which had its own state 2,000 years ago certainly has the right to it in our time."

Third in the election, with 4.32 per cent of the vote, was Sos Saryan of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, which ruled the republic from 1918 to 1920 and enjoyed wide support among the many millions of Armenians spread throughout the world.

An emotive issue in an otherwise low-key campaign was Armenia's claim to Nagorno-Karabakh — a largely Armenian enclave inside neighbouring Azerbaijan.

More than 800 people have been killed in three years of clashes over the enclave.

In Moscow, the president of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mamedov, refused to attend a meeting with Mr. Ter-Petrosyan.

The impact was so powerful that the first sleeper car hurtled

Armenian nationalist wins presidency in landslide

NATO: No nuclear-free Europe despite big cuts

TAORMINA, Sicily (R) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said Friday Europe could never become a nuclear-free zone despite landmark decisions to make huge cuts in the Soviet and alliance arsenals.

Mr. Woerner and some NATO defence ministers, including U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, who says he will lead Armenia to full independence from Moscow, has won the republic's first presidential election by a landslide.

Levko Ter-Petrosyan won 83.03 per cent of the vote in Wednesday's poll, according to preliminary results from all 66 electoral regions, election officials said Friday. His nearest rival, Parik Hantikyan, won 7.21 per cent in a 70.42 per cent turnout.

"Ter-Petrosyan means stable politics and dynamic firm movement towards independence," Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan said in an interview.

"This shows people believe in Ten-Petrosyan's idea of a balanced policy that gives a real guarantee of security and transition to independence and economic autonomy," parliamentary spokesman Asbott Artyunyan said.

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But the minister said they need to keep a few hundred nuclear aircraft bombs to guarantee peace in Europe.

Mr. Woerner said the decision was an important step on the way to a Rome summit of alliance leaders next month, which will give formal blessing to a new NATO strategy for the post-cold war era.

Nuclear weapons would continue to be stationed in various NATO nations and no alliance member basing nuclear arms on its soil had indicated it would change that policy, he added.

Most of NATO's nuclear arsenal Europe is based in Germany, the old cold war front line. But warheads are also stored in Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece and Turkey.

The 16-nation Western alliance

has managed to avoid for now a potentially divisive debate about whether to station a new generation of U.S.-led missiles in Europe. President George Bush last month cancelled the development programme for the weapon.

But Mr. Cheney made clear the option to develop such weapons could remain open in future, although there were no plans to do so and no need to discuss the question for several years.

"We, together with our allies, agree that there is still a requirement to address the question of new stand-off weapon," he said.

Such missiles can be fired by aircraft several hundred kilometres from the target, hence the name "stand-off."

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The 16-nation Western alliance

COLUMN

Fake nun steals show at Pope's meeting with Colom

BRASILIA, Brazil (R) — A woman in man's habit with a beauteous smile tricked Pope John Paul, security police and Brazil's president this week to kneel before the Pontiff and receive his personal blessing in the papal palace.

The woman, who had

been

been